

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

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P 080415Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3444

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4466

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON
IMMEDIATE CAN THO NHA TRANG DANANG DTD 6 APR 74 REPEATED
FOR YOU ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 165

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJ: SPECIAL DAILY SITREP - APRIL 5, 1974

1. MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR 3 DECLINED TO 46 FOR 24 HOUR PERIOD
ENDING 0800 APRIL 6 WITH REDUCED ACTIVITY IN ALL CATEGORIES.
THERE WERE 7 GROUND ATTACKS AND 25 ABF (3 MAJOR). GVN CASUALTIES
WERE 25 KIA, 88 WIA, 5 MIA. MR 3 HQ CLAIMS ENEMY LOSSES OF ONLY 14
KIA, BUT AS INDICATED IN PARA 4, BELOW, VNAF REPORTED SUBSTANTIAL
ENEMY FORCES KILLED BY AIR STRIKES ON APRIL 5. MOST INCIDENTS WERE
REPORTED IN HAU NGHIA (14), PHUOC TUY (11) AND LONG KHANH (7).

2. MR 3 HQ IS NOW PREOCCUPIED WITH SIGNS THAT THE NVA/VC MAY
HAVE GREATER STRENGTH THAN PREVIOUSLY DETECTED CONCENTRATED AT
HO BO WOODS AND IN THE PARROTS BEAK AREA OF CAMBODIA:

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A. G-2 NOW BELIEVES THAT THE 272ND (MINUS) AND 95-C REGIMENTS

OF THE 9TH NVA DIV MAY BE IN HO BO TOGETHER WITH THE 271ST AND THE 9TH DIV FORWARD CP. THIS WOULD SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT THE COMMUNIST INTENTION IS TO MAKE A DETERMINED EFFORT TO CUT ROUTE 1 IN THE TRANG BANG AREA.

B. IN A MEETING IN THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AREA APRIL 5, A CAMBODIAN OFFICER TOLD A SENIOR OFFICER OF MR 3 HQ THAT ON APRIL 4 (A) 22 T-54 TANKS AND M-113 APC'S HAD BEEN OBSERVED HEADING EASTWARD ON ROUTE 1 EAST OF CHI PHU IN THE PARROTS BEAK OF CAMBODIA AND (B) 4 UNITS OF 600 MEN EACH HAD BEEN SEEN ON CAMBODIAN ROUTE 92 (THE NORTH-SOUTH ROAD JUST INSIDE CAMBODIA OPPOSITE DUC HUE RANGER BASE CAMP).

C. G-2 OF MR 3 IS NOW CARRYING ALL OF THE 5TH DIV IN THE PARROTS BEAK AREA (MINUS ONLY THE 275TH REGIMENT WHICH IS NE OF SOU DA TOWN EAST OF BLACK VIRGIN MOUNTAIN IN TAY NINH). G-2 BELIEVES THAT THE NEXT MOVE OF THE 5TH WILL BE AGAINST DUC HUE RANGER BASE WITH THE OBJECTIVE ALSO OF OCCUPYING DUC HUE DISTRICT WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER.

D. MR 3 HQ HAS DECIDED THAT AFTER "RESCUING" THE RF BATTALION SURROUNDED BY THE 33RD NVA REGIMENT IN DUC THANH DISTRICT OF PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, THAT AREA (WHICH IS ASTRIDE AN NVA/VC COMMUNICATIONS TRAIL BETWEEN VC MAY TAO BASE AREA TO THE EAST AND THE HAT DICH BASE AREA IN SE BIEN HOA PROVINCE) WILL BE TEMPORARILY EVACUATED THUS CONCEDING TEMPORARY USE OF THE TRAIL TO THE VC. THIS IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY SO THAT THE 18TH REINFORCING DIV UNIT CAN BE EMPLOYED FOR HIGHER PRIORITY PURPOSES ELSEWHERE - SPECIFICALLY, TO OPERATE IN THE PHU GIAO AREA OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE AND TO CONSTITUTE A RESERVE FORCE IN LONG KHANH.

3. OPERATING WELL OUT FROM LAI KHE BOTH NORTHWESTWARD AND NORTHEASTWARD ON EITHER SIDE OF QL 13, BEGINNING APR 5, THE 5TH ARVN DIVISION HAS NOT YET DRAWN CONTACT WITH EITHER THE 9TH NVA OR 7TH NVA DIVISIONS. ABSENCE OF CONTACT WEST OF ROUTE 13 SUPPORTS THE VIEW THAT THE 272ND AND 95-C REGIMENTS OF THE NVA 9TH HAVE MOVED SOUTHWARD. THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT THE 101 NVA INDEPENDENT REGIMENT, BELIEVED TO BE GREATLY WEAKENED FROM RECENT ENGAGEMENTS SOUTH OF BOI LOI WOODS, MAY HAVE MOVED INTO THE AREA NW OF LAI KHE.

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4. THIRD AIR DIV REPORTED 46 SORTIES OF FIXED WING AIRCRAFT FLOWN APR 5 KILLED APPROXIMATELY 100 NVA/VC AND ACCOUNTED FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF BUNKERS, HUTS, AND TRENCHES AS REPORTED BY L-19 OBSERVATION PLANES. ACTION ALSO RESULTED IN NUMEROUS SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

A. CHI LINH BASE, BINH LONG: 16 SORTIES KILLED 80 NVA/VC AND DESTROYED 10 BUNKERS, 22 HUTS AND 20 METERS OF TRENCHES.

B. DUC THANH, PHUOC TUY: 2 SORTIES KILLED 10 NVA/VC AND DESTROYED 12 HUTS.

C. DON LUAN, PHUOC LONG: 19 SORTIES KILLED 10 NVA/VC, DESTROYED ONE 82MM MORTAR, 5 BUNKERS, 10 HUTS AND ONE TRUCK. ONE BRIDGE WAS REPORTED DAMAGED AND 8 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS AND FIRES WERE OBSERVED.

D. TONLE CHAM BASE: 4 SORTIES DESTROYED ONE MORTAR AND CAUSED TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

E. TRANG BANG: 5 SORTIES DESTROYED 20 FOXHOLES AND 20 METERS OF TRAIL. 3 OF 5 SORTIES HAVE NO DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AS YET.

ALSO ON APRIL 5, 3RD AIR DIV REPORTS 56 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES FLOWN AGAINST LOCATIONS AT (A) BEN CUI PLANTATION, TAY NINH; (B) KHIEM HANH DISTRICT, TAY NINH AND (C) DUC HOA DISTRICT, HAU NGHIA WHICH EXPENDED 50 ROCKETS AND 5,000 ROUNDS OF MACHINE GUN AMMO. NO BDA REPORTED TO DATE.

5. ON APRIL 5, COMMUNIST PRESSURE CONTINUED IN DUC THANH DISTRICT, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE WITH A COMBINED ABF (200 ROUNDS) AND GROUND ATTACK AGAINST THE 3RD BN, 48TH REGIMENT AND THE 2ND TANK CO, 5TH BN, ARVN 18TH DIV WHICH RESULTED IN FRIENDLY LOSSES OF 21 WIA AND ENEMY LOSSES UNKNOWN. A PATROL ELEMENT OF 1ST CO, 342ND BN CONTACTED AN ENEMY FORCE 11KMS NORTH OF DUC THANH RESULTING IN 4 NVA/VC KILLED AND FRIENDLY LOSSES OF 1 KIA AND 8 WIA.

6. THE DUC HUE RANGER CAMP WAS HIT BY 3 ABF'S AND SUFFERED MINOR CASUALTIES (2 WIA). ENEMY PRESSURE CONTINUED NORTHEAST OF TRANG BANG WITH DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF THE 319TH RF BATTALION ALSO WITHSTANDING ABF'S. A SERIOUS TERRORIST INCIDENT OCCURRED AT 2300 HOURS APRIL 5 AT GIA BINH VILLAGE, 5 KMS NORTHWEST OF TRANG BANG
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(XT 450223). VC TOSSED A GRENADE INTO A CONGREGATION ATTENDING A BUDDHIST CEREMONY RESULTING IN 8 KIA AND 19 WIA INCLUDING 6 AND 18 CIVILIANS, RESPECTIVELY.

7. IN LONG KHANH ARVN AND RF UNITS HAD THREE SEPARATE CONTACTS SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF XUAN LOC IN WHICH GVN LOSSES AMOUNTED TO 11 KIA, 2 WIA AND NO KNOWN ENEMY LOSSES. THREE COMMUNIST ABF'S AGAINST LONG GIAO BASE, 7 KMS SOUTH OF XUAN LOC KILLED 3 CIVILIANS.

PETERS
UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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